

After September 11, we can no longer wait until threats fully materialize before we take action to protect American families.

We are truly winning the global war on terror with coalition victories in Iraq and Afghanistan, the dismantling of Libya's weapons programs, the killing of al Qaeda leaders in Saudi Arabia and Algeria, and the capture of terror cells in England, Spain, Turkey, Pakistan, and Jordan. Bin Laden terrorist leader Abu Makki surrendered yesterday in Saudi Arabia.

As President Bush said this week at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, "Three years ago, the world was very different. Terrorists planned attacks with little fear of discovery or reckoning. Outlaw regimes supported terrorists and defied the civilized world, without shame and with few consequences. The world changed on September the 11th, and since that day we have changed the world. We are leading a steady, confident, systematic campaign against the dangers of our time."

In conclusion, may God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

#### NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE ON MEDICARE BILL

(Mr. STRICKLAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, the world now knows that the Bush administration withheld reliable information regarding the true cost of the Medicare privatization bill they pushed through this House in the middle of the night.

According to The New York Times today, and I quote, "New government estimates suggest that employers will reduce or eliminate prescription drug benefits for 3.8 million retirees when the Medicare bill becomes operable in 2006." That represents one-third of all the retirees with employer-sponsored drug coverage, according to documents from the Department of Health and Human Services.

We know how that bill passed in the middle of the night, 6 o'clock in the morning, after the vote was held open for 3 hours, got the President out of bed at 4 o'clock in the morning to twist arms, and we have done this to Americans, especially America's retirees.

It reminds me of a verse from these scriptures that says "Men love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil."

#### PROTECTING MARRIAGE IS A CRITICAL NATIONAL ISSUE

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, today the Senate will vote on an issue of critical national importance: marriage. The issue is whether we will stand idly by

as a few unelected judges redefine the family for us or if we will take a stand and say "enough is enough."

The best home for kids is when their biological parents, mom and dad, live at home, are married, and are engaged in the lives of their children. Unfortunately, many claim this is an issue for the States. Indeed, it is, if that is what were happening, but it is not. Courts are circumventing the States in order to make this happen so that we will never debate it, so that States will never debate it, and the American people will never debate it. That is just how activists want it.

There is no way around it. We need to amend the Constitution. The Federal marriage amendment is supported by a very diverse coalition. Voting on it is hardly politics as usual. It is the least we can do to protect the stability of our communities and the best future for our children. The United States Congress should vote for the marriage protection amendment to the Constitution.

#### PRESCRIPTION DRUG IMPORTATION

(Mr. EMANUEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, today's New York Times reports that almost 4 million senior citizens will lose their employer drug coverage and prescription drug coverage when the new Medicare law goes into effect in 2006. In most cases, this will result in beneficiaries getting worse drug coverage than they had before this bill was passed. My Republican colleagues sure have a funny way of implementing reform over there.

In addition to not only 4 million more seniors getting worse coverage than originally planned, this bill will cost the taxpayers \$150 billion more than Republicans originally said. If we had taken the steps to deal with prices originally in the Medicare bill, more employers would be able to afford the drug coverage they originally planned and senior citizens and taxpayers would save money.

Yesterday, the House affirmed for the third time this session a bipartisan support for prescription drug reimportation. We have employers dropping their drug coverage because they can no longer afford rising drug prices. We have a Medicare card that now gives seniors higher prices and a lot more confusion than buying drugs from Canada and Europe, and we have a Medicare bill not designed for seniors in mind.

Instead of a philosophy of the customer is always right, this bill says that special interests are always right.

#### MEDICAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, there is no higher priority for us than the reform of the medical justice system. It costs the country \$230 billion a year, and right now we have never been closer to getting this ball across the goal line. We have passed the bill in this House, and we have a President in office who has said he will sign this bill. Our only problem is 400 feet away from us, on the other side of the Capitol.

Mr. Speaker, we have also never been further away. If we lose this election at the Presidential level, it will be nuclear winter as far as any type of meaningful medical liability reform in this country for easily the next 4 or 8 years time.

And it is important, Mr. Speaker, because \$230 billion is what it cost this country in the medical justice system in the year 2003. One-fifth of that went to compensate patients for their actual injuries, and one-fifth of it went to the trial bar.

The impact of the medical liability crisis is clear: Patients, doctors, and hospitals are put in jeopardy while the plaintiff bar continues to enrich itself.

#### FALSE POSITIVES ON THE ECONOMIC FRONT

(Mr. PASCRELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, we have heard a lot recently about the so-called improving economy, but I want to bring my colleagues' attention on both sides of the aisle to the fact that 90 percent of the new jobs created since August of 2003 are in industries that pay an average hourly wage that is less than the national average, or that many of these new jobs are part-time or temporary.

So the President says, look, I have only lost, with this upturn in the last 3 months, I have only lost 1.5 million jobs. If Clinton ever came before us and said that, we would all have booed him out of here, and my Republican colleagues know it.

They have never mentioned that since the tax cut took effect there are actually 2.3 million fewer jobs than the administration projected that would be created by the enactment of its tax cuts.

Merrill Lynch put it more aptly: The number of millionaires jumped 14 percent last year. There is a middle-class squeeze. The Bush tax cuts, which included a reduction in the top tax rate as well as reductions in taxes on estates, led the Wall Street Journal to report: This helped bolster the fortunes of the fortunate.

#### MISUSE OF INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1